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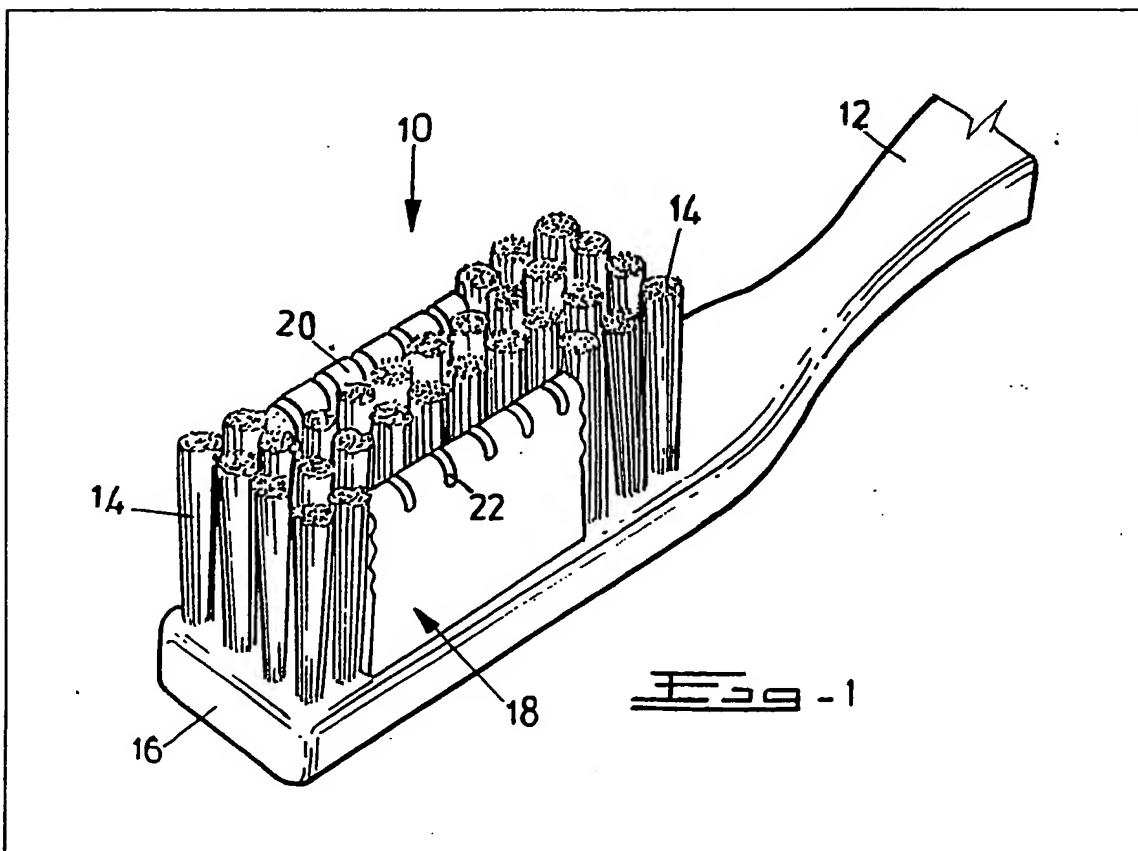
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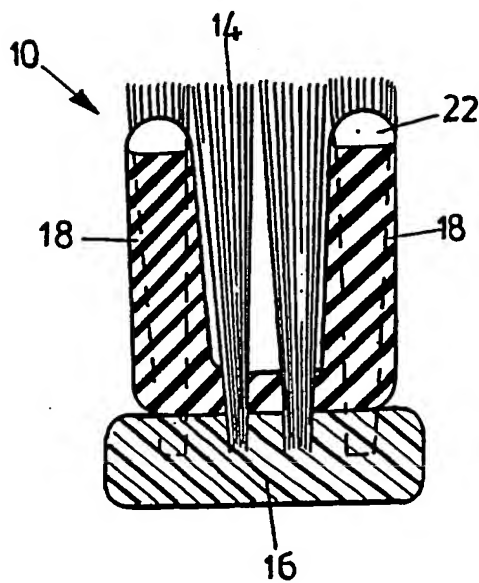
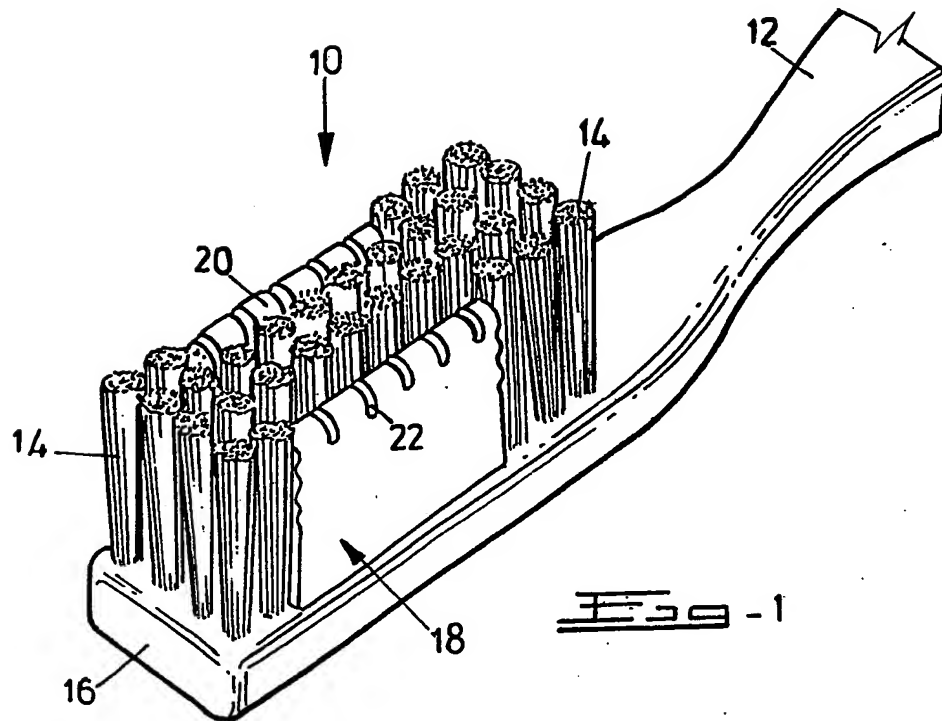
- (54) Improved toothbrush**

- (67) A toothbrush includes tufts of bristles 14 which are fixed to and project from a head base 16 to define a substantially rectangular brush surface and a pair of resilient gum massage members 18 which are located on opposite long sides of the brush surface with each massage member being at least as long as the brush surface occupied by three tufts of bristles but shorter than the surface and preferably as wide as a tuft of bristles.

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base of the element to anchor the element in position on the head. Assembly of the brush is simplified by this method of construction.

As is seen in the drawing the member 18 tapers outwardly towards the base of the channel to increase the rigidity of the members at and towards their bases. The sides of the members could additionally include the ripples or grooves which were described with reference to the Figure 1 embodiment to increase the progressively rigidifying effect.

To ensure an adequate degree of traction between the massage ends 20 of the members 18 and the user's gums it is important that the effective width of the massage ends of the members 18 be substantially as wide as the diameter of the area occupied in the brush surface by a tuft of bristles and as long as at least three tufts of bristles at the brush surface. It is, however, equally important that a number of tufts of bristles on the long sides of the brush surface are unshielded by the members 18 so that the transverse cleaning and picking action of the brush is not lost to the user.

In use, the brush of the invention is used in the conventional manner with the massage members 18, when brought into contact with the user's gums, providing a massage effect.

The invention is not limited to the precise constructional details as herein described and the brush could, for example, include one or more resilient massage and abrasion members which are located among the bristles of the brush. Additionally, the massage ends 20 of the members 18 may be located on the outside of the bristles of the head and be located at or above the brush surface of the bristles. Also, the massage members could be embedded in the material of the head and fastened in place by any suitable means.

CLAIMS

1. A toothbrush including a head, tufts of bristles which are fixed to and project from the head to define at their free ends an elongated brush surface and a massage member which is exposed at or near one of the longitudinal sides of the brush surface and has a resilient integral massage surface at or near the brush surface and a length at least as long as the brush surface occupied by three tufts of brush bristles but is shorter than the length of the brush surface so that movement of at least some of the brush bristles is not impeded by the member in a direction transverse to the long axis of the brush head.

2. A brush as claimed in Claim 1 including two massage members which are located on opposite sides of the brush surface.

3. A brush as claimed in Claim 1 or 2 in which the width of the massage surface of the or each massage member is substantially as wide as the brush surface occupied by a tuft of brush bristles.

4. A brush as claimed in any of the preceding claims in which the massage surface of the or each massage member includes upstanding massage formations.

5. A brush as claimed in any of the preceding

claims in which the or each massage member is made from a resilient material.

6. A brush as claimed in Claim 5 in which the or each massage member is made to be more resilient at its massage surface end than at the end which is attached to the brush.

7. A brush as claimed in Claim 5 or 6 in which the or each massage member is attached to the brush head by adhesive.

8. A brush as claimed in any one of Claims 2 to 6 in which the massage members are joined at their bases by a bridge member with the tufts of bristles between the massage members passing through the bridge member.

9. A brush as claimed in any of the preceding claims in which the massage surface of the or each massage member is below the main brush surface of the bristles.

10. A toothbrush substantially as herein described with reference to and as illustrated in either of the drawings.

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